

Singapore Raptor Report Spring Migration, February 2010

Summary:

140 raptors from 11 migrant species were reported this month. **Black Bazas** continued to be the most numerous at 91 birds and a flock of 25 was reported by Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng at Changi. Separately, Ulf Remahl had been tirelessly monitoring the suspected Black Baza roost at Singapore Quarry and found 18 birds on one morning. **Oriental Honey Buzzards** came in second in terms of numbers again with a total of 20 birds. This species is usually silent when wintering but an unusually vocal pair of birds was seen circling and calling repeatedly at Lower Pierce on the 21st for around 20 minutes by Lena Chow & Jimmy Tan. The third most numerous was the **Osprey** with 11 birds. One rare migrant species was recorded for the 1st time this season and two rare resident species were reported.

*A rare juvenile
Crested Goshawk
at Singapore Zoo
on 160210.*

Photo by Tsen Thau Ming

*Note: the zoo does not
keep Crested Goshawks!*



Highlights for migrant species:

On the morning of the 15th Mick Price saw a juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** at Seletar West flying towards Khatib Bongsu. This is the first record of this rare species this season. The rare **Booted Eagles** continued to be present at Seletar West, although only 2 dark morphs were reported this month compared to 3 birds last month. Kent Ridge continued to hold good birds with a rare **Common Kestrel** seen by Horst Flotow.

For the uncommon raptors, a **Common Buzzard** was at its usual haunt in Changi (reported by Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng) while another was seen at Holland Village by Martti Siponen. A **Chinese Sparrowhawk** was seen by Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng at Seletar West. Another sighting by Mick Price at nearby Pulau Punggol might be of the same individual. A total of 4 **Eastern Marsh Harriers** were recorded – 1 seen in flight at Pasir Ris Farmway 3 by Lim Poh Bee and another 3 at Changi (Nicholas Tan; Tan Kok Hui, Danny Lau and Lau Jia Sheng). Small numbers of **Japanese Sparrowhawks** and **Peregrine Falcons** were also reported.

Highlights for sedentary species:

For the sedentary species, a rare **Crested Goshawk** was seen and photographed on 16 Feb 2010 by Tsen Thau Ming at the Singapore Zoo. It was a juvenile, indicating that Crested Goshawks may be breeding in or near Singapore. On the same day, Alan OwYong saw a probable Crested Goshawk over at One North. A second rarity, the **Crested Serpent Eagle**, was seen in flight at Bukit Batok Nature Park by Wing Chong on the 7th. This species was also reported off Lentor Avenue by Alfred Chia on the 9th and at Mandai by Low Choon How on the 19th.

For the **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**, 7 individuals were reported this month. The numbers for the uncommon **Changeable Hawk-eagle** held out at 18, same as last month. Tan Kok Hui reported a large flock of **28 Brahminy Kites** at Seletar West and Mick Price saw 25 of them at the same place on another evening.

*One of the two
Oriental Honey
Buzzards
that were circling
and calling for
about 20 minutes
at Lower Pierce.
This is a male.*

*Photo
by Jimmy Tan*



Table 1

S/N	Species	No.	S/N	Species	No.
1	Osprey	11			
2	Black Baza	91		Residents / Sedentary Species	
3	Oriental Honey Buzzard	20	12	Black-winged Kite	17
4	Eastern Marsh Harrier	4	13	Grey-headed Fish Eagle	7
5	Chinese Sparrowhawk	1	14	Crested Serpent Eagle	3
6	Japanese Sparrowhawk	3	15	Crested Goshawk	1
7	Common Buzzard	2	16	Changeable Hawk-eagle	18
8	Booted Eagle	2			
9	Rufous-bellied Eagle	1			
10	Common Kestrel	1		Unidentified	
11	Peregrine Falcon	4	17	Unidentified Accipiters	2
Total for Migrants		140		Grand Total	188

Note: The total numbers are indicative only with similar species in the same area discounted to prevent duplication.